

EcoOnline™

Solar PV Panel

For 10W-120W Solar PV Panels

Installation Manual & User Manual - Revised 17/11/2014



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Contents

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Key Terms..... | 3 |
| 2 | Safety Requirements..... | 4 |
| 3 | Warranties | 4 |
| 4 | Are You Setting up Charging System? | 4 |
| 5 | Solar Panel Wiring Diagrams..... | 5 |
| 6 | Connecting the MC4 Connector to Solar Wire | 7 |
| 7 | Mounting the Solar Panel(s) | 7 |
| 8 | Maintenance | 8 |
| 9 | Trouble Shooting Guide | 9 |

1 Key Terms

Congratulations on the purchase of your EcoOnline™ Solar Panel. Please print this manual out for your reference. Please take the time to read the manual before starting any work. Particular attention should be given to text contained in the following key terms.

Please note EcoOnline has a strong product safety policy; do not install products without reading safety guidelines in the manual. Please report any product safety issues or near misses to info@EcoOnline.com.au no matter how trivial.

| | |
|--|--|
|  DANGER | Indicates a SAFETY issue that is likely to cause injury or death if the user does not follow the instructions. |
|  WARNING | Indicates a SAFETY issue that may cause injury or death if the user does not follow the instructions. |
|  CAUTION | Indicates a SAFETY issue that may cause injury or property damage if the user does not follow the instructions |
|  Read Carefully | Refers to critically important information related to the correct functioning of the system. |
|  Tip | Refers to useful information for the optimal operation of the system |

2 Safety Requirements



DANGER

Never connect solar panels to batteries directly. Only connect to a battery through a suitable charging regulator.



WARNING

Always use appropriate gauge wires. Never exceed the rated **Ampacity** (amp rating) of a wire. Keep in mind that **wires situated in highly insulated environments cannot dissipate heat** and hence will have a much lower Ampacity. This could lead to a fire hazard.



WARNING

If you are unskilled in making safe electrical connections, we recommend all electrical connections be carried out by a certified electrician. **Loose, corroded or fatigued electrical connections can become resistive and overheat creating a fire hazard.**



WARNING

What follows are general installation guidelines, **they should NOT be taken to be appropriate for all installation situations**, if in doubt please seek advice from a certified electrician.

3 Warranties

EcoOnline™ offers the following Warranties

- 20 year limited Warranty on all solar panels

See EcoOnline.com.au [Terms and Conditions](#) page for further details.

4 Are You Setting up Charging System?

Firstly, please visit our online sizing calculators to size your system. They will help you understand important factors involved in sizing a solar charging regulator system.

1. [Solar Panel Sizing Calculator](#) (this will help you understand the factors involved in a **sizing solar panels**)
2. [Solar Regulator Calculator](#) (this will help you understand the factors involved **sizing a regulator**)
3. [Solar Wire Sizing Calculator](#) (this will help you understand the factors involved in **sizing wire gauges**)



WARNING

A charging system must be sized right, for efficiency, reliability and **safety**. If in doubt please seek advice.

5 Solar Panel Wiring Diagrams

Here you will find the ***in parallel*** and ***in series*** connection diagrams for wiring two (36 cell) solar panels together if required.



WARNING

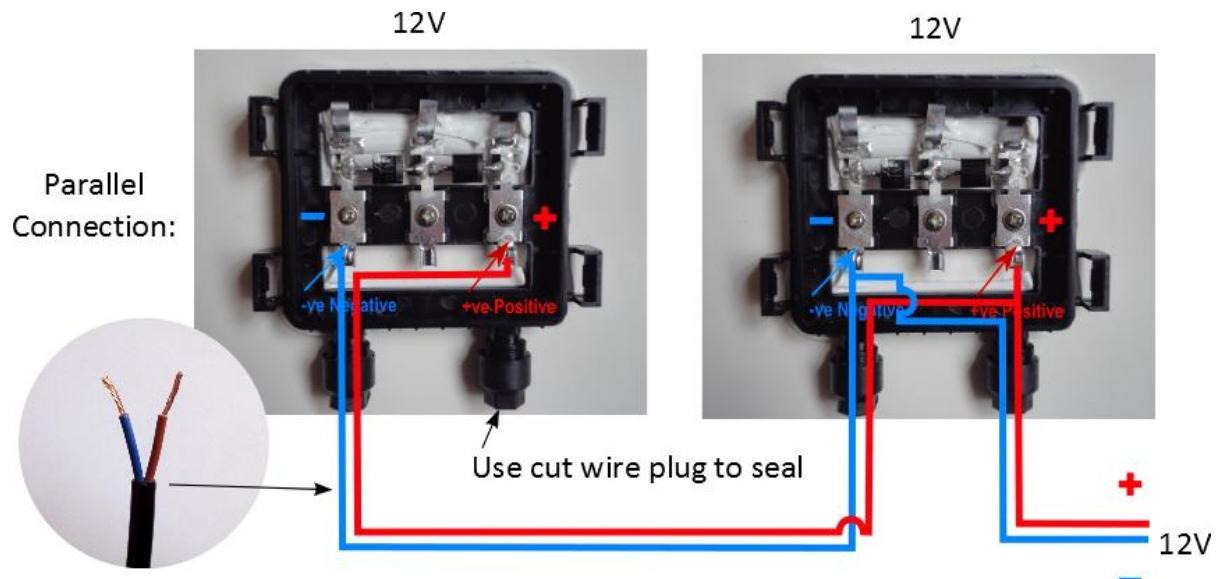
NEVER screw clamp solder tinned wires to the junction box terminals. Positive and negative wires must be soldered onto the solar panels terminals in the junction box.



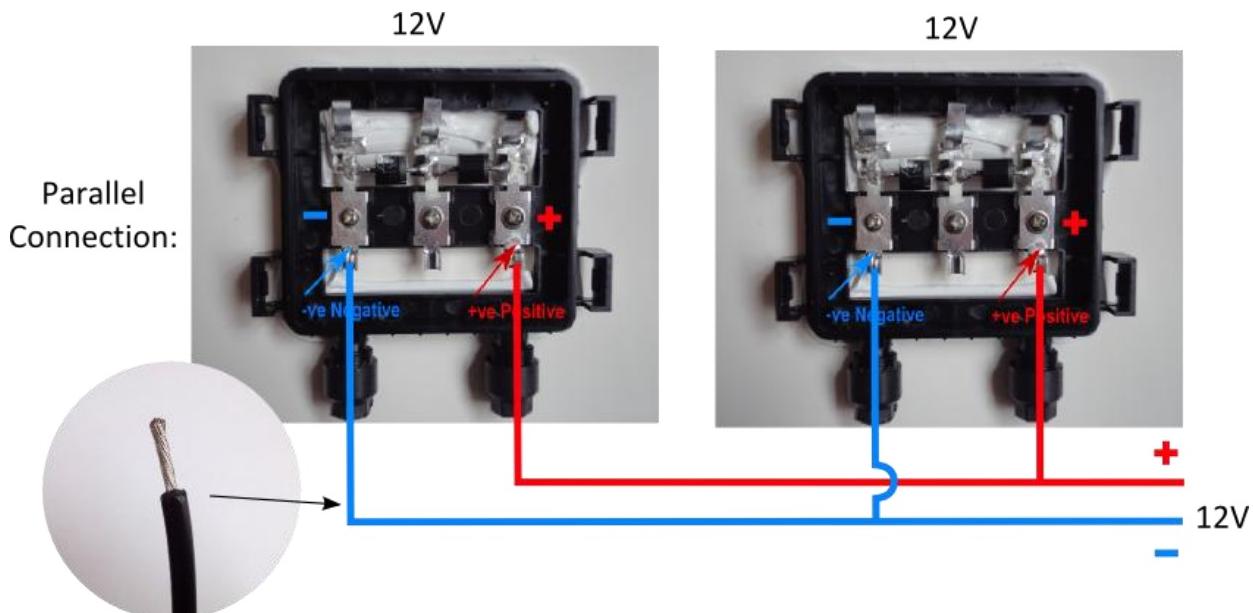
CAUTION

Always check that the solar modules are wired for the same voltage as the battery by using a **multimeter**. Open circuit voltage of a “12V nominal” or 36 cell solar panel or in parallel connected solar panels should be around 21V. This should be doubled for a 24V system.

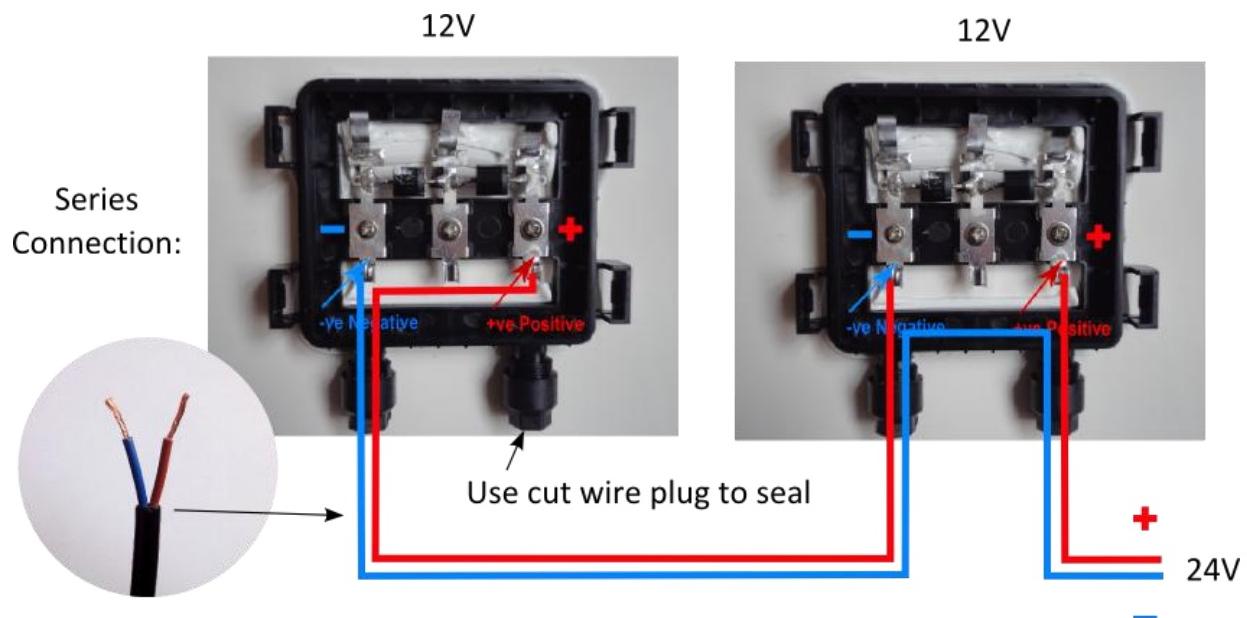
5.1 In Parallel Connection Using Twin Cord Wire – for 12V system



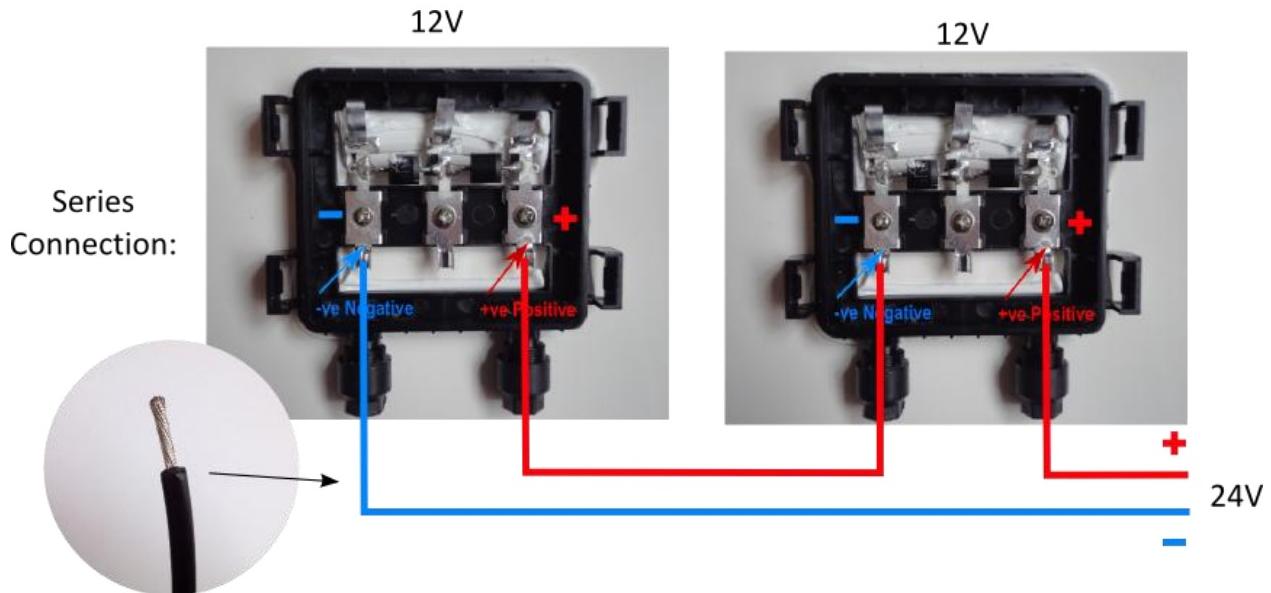
5.2 In Parallel Connection Using Single Cord Wire – for 12V system



5.3 In Series Connection Using Twin Cord Wire – for 24V system



5.4 In Series Connection Using Single Cord Wire – for 24V system



Panels wired in series must be of equal power and face exactly the same direction.

6 Connecting the MC4 Connector

Your solar panel may have come with wire and MC4 connectors on the ends. You will need to source opposing MC4 connector plugs to make connections to the solar panels MC4 connectors. Please note the following when connecting the back end of an MC4 connector to solar wire.



The MC4 connector metal pin must be crimped onto the solar wire using appropriate Australian Standard crimping tools. We recommend you also solder the crimped connection for better electrical contact, but **only after a secure and tight crimp is performed.**

7 Mounting the Solar Panel(s)

7.1 Mounting on Building Roof or Caravan



If the panels are to be mounted on a building roof **always check council/building regulations in your area.** We recommend roof mounting of panels be performed by a qualified professional that can advise on appropriate mounting means for your situation.

Generally, when mounting panel we also recommend:

- Panel(s) should be mounted **as close to the ground as possible** for ease of maintenance, reduced wind loading, shorter wire runs and a reduced chance of lighting strike
- Electrical connections in junction box **MUST be soldered on.**
- The **underside moisture barrier should not be scratched** as this will severely limit panel lifetime.
- **Screwing self taping screws** into the side of frame should not be used as a mounting means; use the bolt holes on the back with locking bolt & nut set or commercially available mounting means.
- Panels should be installed with 20mm to 50mm underside ventilation gap.

7.2 Portable/Folding Solar Camping Panel(s)



We recommend portable/folding panels are placed on a secure, flat, **non-flammable surface** exposed to the sun. As a precaution **do not place panels in dry flammable grass for example.**



Read Carefully

We recommend the portable/folding panels be put away in very strong wind, or if there is a chance of lighting.

8 Maintenance



WARNING

Important: before carrying out any system maintenance you MUST check for any manual updates and download the latest installation manual from
www.EcoOnline.com.au/downloads

The following inspections and maintenance tasks are recommended at least two times per year for any battery charging system.

- Check that the controller is securely mounted in a clean and dry environment.
- Check that the air flow and ventilation around the controller is not blocked. Clear all dirt or fragments on the heat sink.
- Check fixings holding wiring in place.
- Check all wires to make sure insulation is not damaged from, UV exposure, frictional wear, moisture/corrosion, fatigue, insects or rats etc. Maintain or replace the wires if necessary.
- Make sure all terminal connections are tight. Inspect regulator connections for loose, corroded, broken, wires or signs of high temperatures such as discoloured or burnt areas.
- Confirm that all the system components are ground connected tightly and correctly if the system is grounded.
- Check that any fuses and fuse holders are not corroded and/or lose and/or warm or hot during operation. Replace as needed.



WARNING

Fatigued, weathered, loose and/or corroded wiring or electrical connections poses a fire risk even at low voltage. The systems wiring should be checked periodically for any wear, cracking resulting from UV damage of insulation on wiring and corrosion of any solder or controller connections. Any affected parts should be replaced at the first sign of damage.

9 Trouble Shooting Guide

Note: solar panels have no moving part and are extremely reliable. The only components that can fail are the diodes which can short out a panel and produce a 0V across the junction box terminals. The following is a step by step trouble shooting guide:

